

Minutes of Meeting
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA
Wednesday, April 12, 2023

A meeting of the Colorado River Board of California (Board) was held on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at the Hotel Maya, Luna Solstice Room, 700 Queensway Drive, Long Beach, CA. 90802.

Board Members and Alternates Present:

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| David De Jesus (MWD Alternate) | Jeanine Jones (DWR Designee) |
| Gloria Cordero (MWD) | Delon Kwan (LADWP Alternate) |
| Gina Dockstader (IID Alternate) | Jim Madaffer, Vice Chairman (SDCWA) |
| John B. Hamby, Chairman (IID) | Peter Nelson (CVWD) |
| Eric Heidemann (SDCWA Alternate) | David R. Pettijohn (LADWP) |
| Jordan Joaquin (Public Member) | Frank Ruiz (Public Member) |
| | Jack Seiler (PVID Alternate) |

Board Members and Alternates Absent:

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| Castulo Estrada (CVWD Alternate) | Christopher Hayes (DFW Designee) |
| Dana B. Fisher, Jr. (PVID) | David Vigil (DFW Alternate) |

Others Present:

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| Steve Abbott | Angela Rashid |
| Robert Cheng | David Rheinheimer |
| Gloria Cordero | Shanti Rossett |
| Dennis Davis | Tom Ryan |
| JR Echard | Alexi Schnell |
| Chris Harris | Tina Shields |
| Geoff Holbrook | Gary Tavetian |
| Lauren Howland | Dean Wang |
| Ned Hyduke | Caroline White-Nockleby |
| Rich Juricich | Delise Wyrick |
| Laura Lamdin | Daniel Yap |
| Tom Levy | Jerry Zimmerman |
| Aaron Mead | |
| Jessica Neuwerth | |

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Hamby announced the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:34 a.m.

Ms. Gloria Cordero with The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) welcomed the Colorado River Board to Long Beach, California. She stated that the city has a population of 500,000 and pointed out some of the city's key features such as the port and Aquarium. She acknowledged that the city is on the land of the Tongva/Gabrielino people who lived in the area many years ago and continue to live and thrive in the area. She concluded her remarks by thanking the staff of MWD and Long Beach Utilities.

NEW BOARD MEMBER INDUCTION

Chairman Hamby stated that the CRB has a historic occasion to induct three of the newest Board members. He stated that the first induction would be Ms. Gloria Cordero. He stated that he will also induct two public members, noting that these positions have been vacant for several years. He stated that public members include, Mr. Frank Ruiz with the Audubon Society and Mr. Jordan Joaquin, President of the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe. Chairman Hamby instructed the inductees to recite a pledge. Following the recitation of the pledge, Chairman Hamby congratulated the new board members.

Board member Ruiz stated that he was the Salton Sea program director and the California District program director for the Audubon Society. He stated that he is honored by the opportunity to be a part of the Colorado River Board. He stated that he hopes to provide a different voice and angle to all of the complexities of the Colorado River. He stated that he is eager to learn the rich history of the Board and work alongside the other Board members.

Board member Joaquin stated that he was humbled to be selected to serve on the Board by the Governor and stated that he hopes to bring a tribal perspective. He stated that he comes with solutions and is also here to learn.

Vice Chairman Madaffer remarked that he is happy that the two public Board positions have been filled after years of vacancy. He stated that the CRB has needed tribal representation for some time and stated that having environmental representation is also important. He added that Board member Cordero will also be a wonderful addition to the Board. Mr. Madaffer also took the opportunity to introduce Mr. Eric Heideman as the Colorado River Board alternate, representing the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) from the City of Poway. Mr.

Heideman will be replacing Board member Gary Croucher.

Board member Cordero stated she would be remiss if she did not honor former Board member Glen Peterson, stating that she is standing on his shoulders, as well as Board alternate David De Jesus.

OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Chairman Hamby invited members of the audience to address the Board on items on the agenda or matters related to the Board. Hearing none, he moved on to the next item on the agenda.

ADMINISTRATION

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the February 15, 2023, Board meeting minutes. Mr. Pettijohn moved that the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Madaffer. By roll-call vote, the minutes were approved with abstentions from Board members Seiler and Vigil.

Consideration of Application for Water Subcontract from the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project (Action)

Mr. Harris summarized a proposed Board Resolution 2023-1 that recommends a subcontract for the Lower Colorado Water Supply Project (Project) water in San Bernadino County, California be offered to the applicant and directs the executive director to forward the application to Reclamation. Mr. Jeff Sievers is requesting a new contract for 1.0 acre-feet of current use. If the Board recommends approval, a new subcontract would be developed by Reclamation for the owner at a future point in time.

Chairman Hamby asked for a motion to approve the resolution on the application for the Lower Colorado River Water Supply Project. Vice Chairman Madaffer moved that the resolution be approved, seconded by Mr. Pettijohn. By roll-call vote, the resolution was unanimously approved.

Upcoming Board meeting schedule

Executive Director Harris presented the upcoming Board meeting schedule. He stated that he and Chairman Hamby have continued to refine the proposed meeting schedule for the

remainder of the year, noting that July meeting may be cancelled. He stated that the next Board meeting in May will occur in conjunction with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference in Monterey, California and the June meeting will be in the Los Angeles County region and will be hosted by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. He stated that in August the meeting will be located in Manhattan Beach and in September it will be located in Quechan/Bard area. The Board meetings in October and November will take place at the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID), respectively. He stated that the December Board meeting will occur in conjunction with the Colorado River Water Users Association (CRWUA) meeting.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM LONG BEACH UTILITIES

Board member Cordero introduced Mr. Anatole Falagan, Assistant General Manager of Long Beach Utilities. Ms. Cordero explained that Long Beach Utilities was created through the recent consolidation of the city's water and gas department.

Mr. Falagan reported that as a southern California utility, Long Beach Utilities, can play a vital role in the discussions and deliberations that lie ahead on the Colorado River. He added that Long Beach Utilities is the only municipal provider of natural gas, with exception to the City of Palo Alto and a couple of smaller community districts.

Mr. Falagan stated that Long Beach Utilities is focused on sustainability and growing its local groundwater supply, as well as using water conservation and lessening its dependence on imported water. He stated that Long Beach Utilities hopes to grow its groundwater supplies to 75% of its overall supplies, and currently makes up 34% of the region's water supply. Mr. Falagan explained that Long Beach Utilities will grow its groundwater supply by injecting water from the Pure Water facility into its groundwater system and pump it later for use. He added that Long Beach Utilities is also increasing its development of recycled water supplies. Mr. Falagan stated that water conservation efforts have reduced water demands, noting that in the early 2000s it was 77,000 AF and will decline to 58,000 AF soon. He stated that to accomplish this Long Beach Utilities have invested in infrastructure, such as groundwater well development, its water distribution system, and water storage tanks. Mr. Falagan provided more details about Long Beach Utilities' water conservation efforts, stating that it is offering rebates for appliance replacements and turf removal.

Mr. Falagan stated that Long Beach Utilities is making efforts to address equity and affordability, noting that the utility has innovative programs that focus on water conservation in disadvantaged communities and neighborhoods. He explained that these programs include retrofitting multifamily buildings, direct installation of gardens in place of turf, and development of native plant parkways. Mr. Falagan reported that the utility has partnered with the California Native

Plant Society to assist with funding to install native plants along the parkways. Mr. Falagan stated that Long Beach Utilities' efforts show how an urban Southern California utility can play an important role during difficult times on the Colorado River.

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE: The Road to the 2007 Guidelines, Draft SEIS, and Post-2026

Mr. Harris reported that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) published the Draft, Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for near term Colorado River operations with the goal of evaluating the potential of modifying the existing 2007 Interim Shortage Guidelines (2007 Guidelines). He stated that the goal of his presentation is to take a trip down memory lane to understand the policy and legal landscape of the Colorado River.

Mr. Harris stated that Law of the River guides management of the Colorado River. He stated that the Colorado River Basin includes portions of seven states, provides water for forty million people, thirty recognized tribes, and has nearly six million acres of irrigated agriculture, and hydropower generation, and has some of the most beautiful southwestern landscape scenery out there. He stated it is an amazing basin and has a long and rich history.

Mr. Harris explained that Sections 601(b) and 602(a) of the 1968 Colorado River Basin Project Act resulted in the 1970 Long Range Operating Criteria (LROC). He stated that there are several key elements of the 1968 Basin Project Act. The first element was the requirement for five-year consumptive uses and losses reports, including stream flow contributions across the basin. He noted that the report has not been issued since 2005, and is supposed to be issued every five years. He added that another important element was Reclamation's development of the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for the reservoir system. He explained that Section 602(a) and the coordinated operation of the Colorado River reservoir system were developed to ensure that the Upper Basin is able to meet its obligations and commitments under the 1922 compact. In addition, to ensure operations between Lakes Powell and Mead were done in a coordinated fashion, and that there would be periodic equalization. He stated that the act also considered critical hydrologic periods of record in determining releases and operational flexibility between particularly the two large reservoirs to maximize the use of power plant releases at Glen Canyon Dam and to avoid anticipated spills.

Mr. Harris stated that during operations from 1970 into the early 1980s the reservoir system filled and spilled. He explained that between 1983 through 1985 there was a lot of water moving down through Lakes Powell and Mead, causing Hoover Dam to spill significantly and caused damaging floods below Hoover Dam all the way to the Parker Strip. He added that the Colorado River flowed for many years all the way to the Gulf of California, sometimes with very

large volumes. He stated that the Central Arizona Project (CAP) was ruled substantially complete in 1993, and Arizona could take its full 2.8 MAF apportionment, with nearly 1.2 MAF of mainstream water use in the Yuma area, and the rest of it went to the central Metropolitan regions in Phoenix and down to Tucson. Mr. Harris stated that in the early 1990s, the Colorado River Board began working with its Lower Basin colleagues in Arizona and Nevada to develop a regional solution to Lower Basin water use, noting that it morphed into the California Colorado River Water Use Plan. He explained that the birth of Arizona's Water Banking authority in 1996 arose to allow for Arizona to bank its unused portion of Colorado River water after taking its full apportionment once CAP came online. He stated that the Arizona Water Banking Authority was developed under state statute with some rulemaking by Reclamation in 1999. He added that the Water Banking Authority also banks water for the benefit of MWD and the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA).

Mr. Harris outlined the Lower Basin and Mexico's water uses in 1999. He stated that in 1999, the Lower Basin and Mexico's water use was 8.21 MAF and 2.89 MAF, respectively, resulting in a total of 11.10 MAF. He stated that during this time the capacity of Lakes Powell and Mead was 92%. He stated that California understood that it would have to reduce its use of Colorado River and Section 2B(6) water would no longer be available now that Arizona was using its full apportionment because CAP was in use. He explained that in consultation with colleagues across the Colorado River Basin, Secretary Babbitt of the Department of the Interior, signed a Record of Decision for the 2001 Interim Surplus Guidelines that would run through 2015. During this period the 1970 LROC would be implemented and govern the operations of the reservoir system. He stated that this decision supported California's Colorado River Water Use Plan which developed a phased approach to step down California's water use from about 5.2 MAF to its basic mainstream proportion of 4.4 MAF. He explained that the plan included a series of surplus tiers based upon Lake Mead elevations, and the flood control spill avoidance strategy in Lake Mead. He stated that at the end of the 20th Century, California was working on its Water Use Plan, the Surplus Guidelines were complete, and the reservoirs were essentially full, he rhetorically asked what could go wrong.

Mr. Harris stated that the Millennium Drought is what went wrong, noting that sustained drought conditions began in 2000. He stated that the long-term average annual inflow at Lee Ferry was 14.8 MAF from 1906 to 2022. He added that if you remove the early wet years, known as the pluvial years (1906 to 1931) in the historical record, the long term average annual inflow at Lee Ferry from 1931 to 2022 is 13.9 MAF. He stated that the long-term average of the Millennium Drought from 2000 to 2022, the average inflow at Lee Ferry is 12.4 MAF. He stated that California's agriculture agencies completed the Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) in 2003. He stated that by 2004, Lakes Powell and Mead had a combined capacity of 50%, or

about 25 MAF. He stated that Reclamation was beginning to develop modeling that indicated that water shortages were looming over the horizon.

Mr. Harris stated that in 2004, Arizona's water use was close to 2.8 MAF, California's water use dropped to slightly under 4.4 MAF and Nevada's water use was about 300,000 AF and the total Lower Basin water use is 7.38 MAF. He added that Mexico's Colorado water use was 1.5 MAF. The total Lower Basin and Mexico water use was 8.88 MAF but the capacity of Lakes Powell and Mead had declined greatly. He stated that the Colorado River Basin had to make a pivot to address the declining reservoir system. He reported that if the Colorado River system did not have enough mainstream water supply to meet all of its the demands, the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) would allocate water through the priority system without regard to state line. He stated that Seven Basin States understood the ramifications of this action and collaborated with Reclamation over four years to develop the Interim Shortage Guidelines. The Draft EIS for the Interim Shortage Guidelines was released in February 2007. The Record of Decision (ROD) was published in April 2008 and expires in 2026. He explained that the EIS evaluated a range of alternatives that were developed by the basin states, an NGO alternative, the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) and the National Park Service, and Reclamation. He stated that the EIS process that Reclamation undertook required broad stakeholder coordination and provided technical expertise to States that did not have the ability process the modeling results. He stated that the Preferred Alternative was a mashup of these first two alternatives, the Basin States alternative, and the alternative developed by the NGO consortium.

Mr. Harris explained that the 2007 Guidelines included defined coordinated operations for Lakes Powell and Mead, established Normal, Surplus, and Shortage Conditions in Lake Mead, identified quantitative Shortage reductions for Lower Basin water users tied to Lake Mead elevation and incentivized water conservation and storage in Lake Mead. He stated that to complement the efforts of the 2007 Guidelines, subsequent Minutes with Mexico in 2010, 2012 and 2017 established activities for Mexico to conserve and store water supplies in Lake Mead. He explained that some of the Minutes addressed infrastructure damage from an earthquake in 2010 in the Mexicali Valley, while other Minutes directly tied to specific things that could benefit operations between the two countries, such as Mexico storing water in Lake Mead.

Mr. Harris reported that more still needed to be done as drought conditions persisted. He stated that Reclamation was again looking at modeling that indicated increasing risk of Lake Mead reaching critical elevations as well as risks of declining pool elevation in Lake Powell. He stated that when the 2007 Guidelines were developed, the risk of Lake Mead declining to critical elevation was 8%. He reported that by 2012, when the Colorado River Basin Study Demand report was completed, risk of Lake Mead reaching elevation 1,025 feet, increased to 25% to 30%. He

added that the 2007 Guidelines provided no guidance beyond this elevation. He stated that in 2014, Reclamation and the Seven States began to develop the Drought Contingency Plan (DCP) to bolster the 2007 Guidelines. In addition, in 2017, the United States and Mexico finalized Minute 323 which includes the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan. He explained that the U.S. domestic DCPs were completed and executed in 2019. The Upper Basin DCP included demand management and Drought Response Operations, while the Lower Basin DCP included additional water user reductions and contributions tied to Lake Mead elevations.

Mr. Harris reported that in 2019, water uses in the Lower Basin had begun to decline due to reductions required under both the 2007 Guidelines and the DCP, as well as a few system conservation agreements. He stated that water use for Arizona was about 2.5 MAF, 3.8 MAF for California and 230,000 AF for Nevada, with a total Lower Basin use of 6.56 MAF. He stated that Mexico's water use was 1.46 MAF, and the total use by the Lower Basin and Mexico was 8.02 MAF, noting that total water use 1999 was 11.01 MAF. He added that in 2019, total system storage was 31.3 MAF, or 53% of capacity. He stated that the reservoir system storage remained at about 50% of capacity for a number of years and it has only been recently that the reservoir capacity has declined sharply. He noted that by 2019, there was 3.2 MAF of Intentionally Created Surplus (ICS) conserved in Lake Mead, buffering Lake Mead's elevation from falling further.

Mr. Harris reported that in 2020, Reclamation published a report regarding the effectiveness of the 2007 Guidelines. The report determined the 2007 Guidelines provided the following: storage in the reservoir system that remained near 50% despite sustained drought conditions, improved management of Reclamation's reservoir system, coordinated operation at Lakes Powell and Mead, greater certainty and reliability for water users, the ability to protect the System as persistent drought became more uncertain and required the addition of the DCPs and Minutes. He stated that the 2007 Guidelines also incentivized conservation and storage resulting in creation of 3.2 MAF of ICS. In addition, Reclamation and Basin water users gained operating experience that will provide a foundation upon which additional agreements can be developed and provided a foundation to facilitate development of additional consensus-based agreements with users in the U.S. and Mexico.

Mr. Harris displayed a chart showing the impact of various conservation programs such as ICS, System Conservation and Mexico's Water Reserve to Lake Mead's storage. The chart also shows Lake Powell's Water Year releases from 2007 to 2022. He noted that without the conservation programs it is very likely that Lake Mead would have had its first shortage declaration in 2015 and the reservoir's elevation would have continued to decline. He stated that the Colorado River Basin's hydrology has declined over the past few years and the combined capacity of Lakes Powell and Mead is close to 25%. He stated that Reclamation is concerned that Lake Powell will fall below 3,490 feet and Lake Mead will fall below 1,025 feet. He stated that

there was a call to protect critical infrastructure across the Basin, so Reclamation implemented Upper Basin Emergency Drought Operation releases in WY-2021. He stated that the Lower Basin states also worked on an agreement to reduce releases out of Glen Canyon Dam by 480,000 AF. He explained that instead of the Lower Basin receiving a 7.48 MAF release, it was dropped to 7.0 MAF release from Glen Canyon Dam, and it had devastating impacts on storage in Lake Mead. He reported that the Upper Basin States worked with Reclamation to develop an additional drought response release of 500,000 AF for WY-2022.

Mr. Harris reported that in June 2022, Reclamation called for 2 to 4 MAF of annual water use reductions, mostly in the Lower Basin in order to get the system back into balance and hopefully stave off taking one of the reservoirs to or below critical elevations. He stated that in November 2022, Reclamation announced its intention to prepare the Draft SEIS. He stated that Reclamation's intention is to modify Section 6 of the Record of Decision of the 2007 Guidelines, which relates to Lake Powell's operations. He explained that Section 2 of the Guidelines is related to Lake Mead's operation and demands met by releases out of Hoover Dam. He stated that Reclamation invited stakeholders to provide guidance, suggestions, recommendations for the Draft SEIS analysis. He stated that Reclamation will evaluate a combination of both technical and administrative actions and may issue a ROD as early as August 2023.

Mr. Harris reported that the Department of the Interior continues to work the Seven Basin States, particularly the Lower Basin States, to see if the Lower Basin States can reach consensus-based agreement identifying activities and potential operations that can help inform Reclamation's finalization of the SEIS and its issuance of its ROD. He stated that the Bipartisan infrastructure Law (BIL) and the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) fund conservation programs and it is likely that these laws will be part of the effort to develop a voluntary consensus-based program that will include voluntary compensated conservation in conjunction with our existing obligations under the 2007 Shortage Interim Guidelines, the DCPs, and Minute 323.

Mr. Harris reported that the Basin has experienced greatly improved water supply conditions that will impact WY-2023 Colorado River Basin Operations. He stated that Reclamation is currently projecting balancing operations and a probable release out of Glen Canyon Dam of 9.0 to 9.5 MAF, adding that the projected unregulated inflow for Lake Powell will be close to 15 MAF. He stated that due to the great hydrology that the Basin is experiencing, it may be possible for Reclamation to recover the volumes of water that were released in the prior DROA releases, which were done in 2021 and 2022, totaling about 620,000 AF.

Responding to a question about the DROA releases, Mr. Harris stated that there is no longer a recovery obligation once the Upper Basin reservoirs are filled to their target elevations.

He stated that the operational neutrality of the 480,000 AF withheld in Lake Powell is no longer active because the amount is included water released for balancing. He stated that actual elevations will be used in Lakes Powell and Mead for planning and determining operations.

Mr. Harris stated comments for the Draft SEIS are expected by the end of May. He noted that California and Arizona will need to come together in May to provide guidance to Reclamation and direction regarding elements that should be included in the preferred alternative. He stated that if additional reductions are needed, the Lower Basin States will need to discuss the implications for each state. He remarked that the Draft SEIS process will give the Basin the ability to manage Basin operations during the next three plus years of the interim period and allow the Basin to pivot to developing the next broader set of operating guidelines, which must be in place by January 1, 2027. He stated that United States must initiate a similar effort with Mexico to ensure that a new Minute will be complementary to the next set of operating guidelines. He stated that the Basin States do not have a lot time to develop the next set of operating guidelines, so the Basin States need to work on a collaborative consensus-based decision-making process.

Vice Chairman Madaffer thanked Mr. Harris for his outstanding presentation and inquired about the timeline for negotiations between Mexico and the US as it relates to the development of the new operating guidelines. Mr. Harris remarked that negotiations could take longer than one year. He explained that the development of the Minute may be challenging and take longer than previous Minutes. He explained that the Binational Water Scarcity Contingency Plan (BWSCP) became active after the U.S. DCP was implemented. He stated that the U.S. had to wait for about 1.5 years before the BWSCP was ready. He noted that the development of previous Minutes (Minutes 310, 318, 319 and 323) went smoothly, noting that the U.S. has a good relationship with Mexico, but there some rebuilding of trust may be needed. He stated that Mexico will not be able to execute a Minute with a time horizon of 30 years, noting that a series of Minutes may be needed during the duration of the next set of Guidelines. He reported that the next set of Guidelines needs to use adaptive management based on water supply conditions of the Colorado River Basin and that the Minute may also need the same, which will require a more robust negotiation process. He stated that he believed it is doable, but needs to be started soon.

Vice Chairman Madaffer asked how much is required of California on this issue if it is within the federal's government purview. Mr. Harris stated the federal government has a very good collaborative process between the two sections of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), the federal agencies in Mexico and the Seven Basin States. He added that the Seven Basin States are represented by one representative from the Upper basin and one each

from California, Arizona, and Nevada, and are all part of the Minute Oversight Group, noting that this model has worked well for Minutes 318, 319, and 323.

Board member Pettijohn asked whether it was a waste of time modifying the 2007 Guidelines and should the Basin focus on a new set of Guidelines for 2027. Mr. Harris responded that the Basin States have considered that during the Draft SEIS review and Reclamation is desirous of developing additional flexibility to manage the reservoir system, especially if the Basin's hydrology worsens again. He remarked that more modeling needs to be done to understand the implications to Lake Mead if Lake Powell's annual release is reduced to below 7.0 MAF.

Board member Nelson commented that the Six State Alternative was an embarrassment to Mexico, and it is important for California to be a leader in future negotiations with Reclamation and Mexico as it relates to the Minute Oversight Group. Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that building a relationship with Tribes will also be important during the development of the next set of Guidelines. Mr. Harris concurred and stated that he believes that all of the stakeholders across the Colorado River Basin should take part in a more transparent and inclusive process, and it must consider Salton Sea impacts. He added that it will be challenging for Reclamation and the Department of the Interior to build trust with the 30 federally recognized tribes in the Basin and every moment of the remaining interim period will be needed to address these challenges. He stated this is an opportunity for California to lead, because the State has the actual operating experience over decades of addressing these challenges. He stated that the State had a banner year in the Sierra Nevada mountains and there will be impacts and consequences to managing California's portfolio. He added that it will be important for California to be more vocal in suggesting solutions to the other Basin States.

STATE AND LOCAL REPORTS

Board Member Jones representing the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), reported that coastal and central portions of the Eastern Sierras had above average WY-2023 precipitation conditions, noting that these areas also experienced flooding. She explained that outside of the southeastern corner of California, the areas near Imperial and Blythe, are the only areas that received above average precipitation. She noted that most of the storm activity was centered in that middle part of the state. She reported that Statewide precipitation was 149% of average and snowpack was 239% of the historical April 1st average. She noted that the statewide reservoir storage was 105% of average.

Ms. Jones showed a graph entitled “Full Natural Flow at DWR forecast points on Selected California Rivers”. She stated that the graph shows the current water year, and the two of the driest years from the prior drought. She stated that there is a large contrast between the driest year and the current water year. She stated that among large reservoirs in California, Lake Shasta and Trinity had the lowest inflows.

Ms. Jones described the snowpack of this winter season as “Snowmagedon”, with Mammoth Mountain receiving 700 inches of snow. She noted that the large amount of snow caused damage to buildings, as the roofs of buildings collapsed under the weight of snow. She displayed California’s snow course data, dating back to the early 1950s, noting that the current water year’s snowpack set an all-time record. She reported on regional snowpack as of April 7th. She stated that the Northern, Central and Southern Sierra snowpack was 201%, 238% and 296% of the April 1st average, respectively. She added that the runoff forecasts for these regions are greatly above average. She noted that the runoff forecast for the Tulare Lake Basin is 447% of average, noting that that there has been flooding in this area.

Mr. Tom Ryan, representing The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), reported that as of April 1st, reservoir storage was 67% of capacity and the Colorado River aqueduct will be on a four-pump flow through March. He stated that the 2023 diversion target is 851,000 AF, and as of April 10th, that MWD has diverted 158,165 AF. Water deliveries through February were 64% percent of average, and the 2023 diversion target for Desert Water Agency and Coachella is 211,000 AF.

Board Member Pettijohn, representing the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) reported that Eastern Sierra snowpack was 304% of normal as of April 1st and hit its peak on April 4 at 307% of normal. He stated that this is the biggest year LADWP has had for the L.A. Aqueduct system. He stated that LADWP is still planning how to manage all of its additional water supplies this runoff season. He displayed a photo of the Long Valley Dam. He stated that the dam was built in 1940 and has never spilled because LADWP moves water down through an underground tunnel that takes the water down to the penstock to generate electricity. He stated that LADWP does not use the dam’s spillway because it is within the endangered habitat for the Owen Tui Chub, which is one of the last habitats in the State.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER REPORT

Mr. Juricich reported that as of April 10th, the water level at Lake Powell was 3,520.41 feet with 5.28 million-acre feet (MAF) of storage, or 23% of capacity. The water level at Lake Mead

was 1,046.15 feet with 7.41 MAF of storage, or 28% of capacity. The total system storage was 18.96 MAF, or 32% of capacity, which is 1.83 MAF less than system storage at this time last year.

Mr. Juricich reported that as of April 5th, for Water Year-2023 (WY-2023) the forecasted unregulated inflow into Lake Powell is 14.47 MAF, or 151% of normal. He reported that the forecasted April to July inflow into Lake Powell is 11.3 MAF, or 177% of normal. He stated that observed inflow into Lake Powell for March was 96% of normal and the April inflow forecast was 144% of normal.

Mr. Juricich reported that SWE conditions throughout the Colorado River Basin are normal to above normal throughout most of the Basin, noting that conditions in the Lower Basin were greater than 150% of the 1991 to 2020 median. He noted that SWE conditions in southern Arizona were 930% of median. He noted that Painted Rock reservoir in Arizona has been making flood control releases. Mr. Harris added that flood control releases are also being made from Alamo Dam on the Bill Williams River to the tune of 300,000 AF. He explained that tributaries below Hoover Dam will end up benefiting Lake Mead because that water does not have to be released. Looking at a map of Arizona's Colorado River tributaries, he reported that San Carlos reservoir by Coolidge, will likely fill and also start making flood control releases. He stated that the the Salt and Verde River system have already been making flood control releases for space building, through the remainder of the runoff season and into the summer. He stated that the water will travel down the lower Gila then to Painted Rock reservoir which is just above the Wellton-Mohawk irrigation and drainage district. He reiterated that the releases from these reservoirs offsets releases from Lake Mead.

Mr. Juricich reported that normally, Lake Mead receives about 800,000 AF of side inflows and it is expected to exceed this value during the runoff season. Mr. Harris reported that Reclamation is anticipating 1 MAF of inflow from the Virgin River into Lake Mead. He added that the side flows into Lake Mead could increase the elevation by 10 to 12 feet.

Mr. Juricich reported on the March 24-Month Study, stating that it was outdated and that the April 24-Month Study would be released early next week. He stated that the median elevation for the end of December 2023, given the most probable inflow into Lake Powell, is 3,550 feet. He noted that elevation would likely be higher than this value, given the above average runoff projections. He stated that the most probable release from Glen Canyon Dam is 7.82 MAF in WY-2023 and 7.48 MAF in WY-2024. He stated that the April 24-Month study would project a release of 9.5 MAF given the improved water supply conditions. He stated that the March 24-Month Study for Lake Mead shows the most probable elevation of 1,030 feet for the end of December 2023, stating that the projected runoff could increase the elevation to 1,050 feet.

Mr. Harris reported that through the end of March, the Brock and Senator Wash regulating reservoirs captured 22,292 AF and 22,449 AF, respectively. He also reported that the excess deliveries to Mexico were 14,426 AF, compared to 770 AF this time last year. Finally, the total amount of saline drainage water bypassed to the Cienega de Santa Clara in Mexico was 36,146 AF through April 4th.

COLORADO RIVER BASIN STATES ACTIVITIES

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program Implementation

Mr. Juricich reported that the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Forum Work Group meeting is scheduled for April 25 -27, in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. He stated that California agencies and other states have been providing budget testimony letters to the congressional committees for future funding for the Salinity Control program.

Mr. Juricich displayed a graph showing the 2022- 2023 salt gain and Dolores River flow at the Paradox Valley. He stated that the Paradox Valley unit is one of the most important salinity control projects on the Colorado River and when it is operated at maximum, it controls about 100,000 tons of salt per year. He stated that the unit has been operating at a reduced level, 66% of capacity, recently and the unit has been restarted. He reported that there have been a few salinity spikes in early April due to a malfunction at one of its pumping wells. He stated that the malfunction has been corrected and the salinity levels will decline.

MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS

Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)

Board member Pettijohn reported that LADWP completed a renovation of the Tujunga spreading grounds, deepening, and widening the area, increasing the capacity by 50%. He stated that the spreading ground is one of five in the San Fernando Valley. He stated that LADWP infiltrated 108,570 AF of water in the San Fernando Basin this year through storm water capture programs and projects, noting that some of the capture programs are in residential areas. He stated that LADWP is renovating a series of parks to build underground infiltration galleries. He added that LADWP is trying to make the San Fernando valley more capable of groundwater infiltration, noting that the area used to be orange groves but has been paved over and now the water runs off into the L.A River.

Mr. Pettijohn reported that LADWP has faced criticism about the L.A. River flowing directly to the ocean. He noted that the LA River captures about 100,000 AF of stormwater and LADWP is planning on doubling or tripling the amount of stormwater capture through its stormwater capture master plan between now and 2035. He reported that the county of Los Angeles has recently passed Measure W, which imposes a tax on people's hardscape on their property, and that money is used to invest in stormwater capture.

Mr. Pettijohn reported that LADWP's water conservation efforts have reduced water use to 105 gallons per person per day in the city of Los Angeles. He explained that this value accounts for every drop of water that comes into the city of Los Angeles for commercial, residential, and institutional use, including evaporative losses and firefighting. He stated that residential water use is 70 gallons per person per day which is low for a city as large as Los Angeles. He credited LADWP's conservation efforts and strict ordinances for the city's low water use. He stated that LADWP spends about \$30,000,000 dollars a year on water conservation in the city, and that supports its direct-install programs. He added that LADWP also offers rebates on every single device you can imagine, both inside a residential home and outside the residential home, adding that there is also a very robust conservation program for commercial and industrial users. He reported that LADWP increased the funding of its incentive program to allow for up to \$2,000,000 to retrofit a business's water system. He reported that LADWP likes to offer incentives rather than restrict use through ordinances. He stated that LADWP has also increased its turf removal rebates from up to \$5 per square foot for residential properties, and if you're a commercial customer, you get \$6 per square foot.

California Department of Water Resources

Board member Jones reported on DWR's flood operations, noting that operations will be a long slog as DWR responds to flooding due to large snowpack in the San Joaquin River Basin and Tulare Lake basin. She added that DWR provided large amounts of flood preparation materials.

Ms. Jones explained that the dry Tulare Lake is rapidly becoming a lake once again. She stated that since the construction of rim dams on the major rivers beginning in the 1950s, there have been three major lake filling events of Tulare Lake in 1969, 1983, and 1979. She stated that in 1983 DWR pumped out 750,000 AF of basin flood water into the aqueduct and sent it over the hill to southern California as a way to get rid of it.

Ms. Jones reported that from a water management standpoint it would have been helpful to have a forecast that gave DWR advance notice of this winter's water supply. She provided the

Board with a handout that shows the state's worst forecasting busts, noting that these statistics are being used to lobby for more funding for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to improve sub-seasonal to seasonal precipitation forecasting. She remarked that better forecasting would have allowed DWR to make a big push for temporary groundwater recharge permits and similar activities to deal with the large volume of runoff.

San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)

Vice Chairman Madaffer reported that SDCWA investments have ensured water reliability but have come at a cost. He stated that SDCWA is continuously working to find innovative solutions to mitigate rising costs. He noted that SDCWA would like to explore options to bank water and work with agencies like LADWP to find ways to store extra water during above average water supply years. He added that SDCWA could also use its desalination water to offer to Arizona and Nevada.

Vice Chairman Madaffer stated that SDCWA recently secured Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) financing for an environment upgrade at Carlsbad Desalination Plant saving ratepayers \$54 million and improves the plant's efficiency and environmental practices.

Vice Chairman Madaffer reported that SDCWA launched its budgeting process two months earlier than normal. He explained that this provided more time to develop rate reduction strategies. He added that this action also got the public involved sooner as well. He stated that there is a projected rate increase of 12% across our member agencies, which has not been welcome news.

Imperial Irrigation District (IID)

Ms. Shields reported that IID had visits from a myriad of federal officials who were there to tour the facilities and outline different options for supporting the region in the drought areas. She added that the official also visited the Imperial Dam. She added that the Reclamation Commissioner visited IID along with some California Congressmen and Mr. Mitch Landrieu, a special advisor to President Biden on infrastructure issues. She stated that Mr. Landrieu is looking for funding opportunities and ways to assist local communities. She stated that at the Imperial Dam visit, Reclamation announced that there was \$8.3 million in federal funding under the BIL for the Imperial Dam. She stated that IID is continuing to work with its partners on funding agreements so that these monies can be put in place to help them handle some of the high costs and upgrading a sixty-plus year-old facility that's well past its life.

Ms. Shields reported that Reclamation also announced that IID had been awarded \$9.5 million in small surface water storage grant for a 2,100 AF reservoir. She explained that IID applied for the grant last year and IID would like to construct the reservoir coming into its system to provide additional flexibility for our growers, handle the increasing demand for larger heads, smaller duration flows, and an increasing interest by our growers in twelve hour runs as they implement their own on-farm efficiency conservation measures. She noted that IID has been frustrated in prior grant application processes due to a lack of understanding of IID's system by grant reviewers.

Ms. Shield reported that the next big project at the Imperial Dam is replacing the underground conveyance structures that have become leaky. She stated that IID is working on replacing these structures in the near future along with the scraper arms on the slide basins above that turn the soil and push it into the underground facilities.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD)

Board member Cordero reported that the banner winter storms have allowed MWD to increase its water supply from the northern Sierra. She stated that MWD has been able to begin refilling its largest southern California reservoir, Diamond Valley Lake for the first time in three years. She stated that MWD has been able to reduce its diversions from the Colorado River aqueduct by about 850,000 AF, and perhaps even more. She stated that MWD is expecting to store about 750,000 AF in reservoirs and groundwater basins across the state.

Ms. Cordero stated that MWD rescinded its emergency declaration and MWD will continue to encourage its customers to continue to conserve. She added that MWD launched its largest conservation effort with a 40,000 square foot digital billboard in Los Angeles. She explained that the digital billboard will play in several different languages that will talk to our consumers about sustainable water saving habits.

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)

Board member Nelson reported that Reclamation celebrated its 120th anniversary at CVWD. He added that Reclamation also recognized a \$60 million BIL loan to replace CVWD's underground distribution system.

Mr. Nelson reported that CVWD has negotiated with Reclamation for a Lower Colorado Conservation, Component 1A proposal for a three-year agreement to save up 105,000 AF with Replenishment Facilities, curtailment and up to 30,000 AF in Colorado River Water Conservation. He stated once those negotiations get wrapped up, CVWD has some forbearance agreements to execute with IID and MWD. He also stated that CVWD is one of the only water districts removing

canal lining in some areas. He explained that the canal lining was done on a stretch of the canal under the QSA and has been a maintenance nightmare because panels popped out and floated. He stated that in conjunction with SDCWA, San Luis Rey Indians, and Reclamation, CVWD, will be building a regulatory reservoir within the old canal, on the side.

Mr. Nelson reported that the CVWD has discontinued penalties associated with drought actions. He added that the CVWD Board will consider returning to Level 1 of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan. He stated that the Board's ban on watering nonfunctional turf remains in place.

Mr. Nelson reported that to date, CVWD has invested \$14.35 million in conservation rebates in Fiscal Year 2023. He stated that part of the funding comes from the general budget. He stated that CVWD converted 4.7 million square feet of turf to other landscape, saving water.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Mr. Vigil reported on the Palo Verde Ecological Reserve Restoration and Water Efficiency Improvement Project. He explained that CDFW manages 500 acres of upland and seasonal wetland habitat. He stated that CDFW will be working to level out the fields, renew the swales and islands, and pull out about 9,000 feet of dilapidated concrete ditches that are failing. He stated that they will also install underground piping and irrigation with valves to efficiently manage water supplies. He added that water use will be cut back with the new setup and work on these projects will start in the fall.

BASIN STATES ACTIVITIES

Mr. Harris reported that the Basin States met in late March to discuss WY-2023 releases from Glen Canyon Dam. He stated that DROA recovery has been initiated with the potential to fully recover 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 DROA releases. He reported that operational neutrality has been eliminated and the 480,000 AF that was withheld from the Lower Basin will be returned. He stated that it is projected that significant balancing releases between Lakes Powell and Mead, will occur with a potential release of 9.5 MAF from Glen Canyon Dam.

Mr. Harris reported that the draft SEIS is expected on April 11th and will be available for download on Reclamation's website.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Salton Sea Management Program

Mr. Harris reported that Ms. Samantha Arthur was appointed to serve as Assistant Secretary for Salton Sea Policy, noting that the position had been vacant for almost a year. He stated that the Salton Sea Management Plan 2022 annual report has been submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board and there will be a Salton Sea workshop in Imperial Valley on May 16-17.

California's Snowpack

Mr. Harris reported that the statewide April 1st snowpack's SWE is 61.1 inches or 237% of average, this is the largest snowpack ever. He stated that on March 24th, DWR increased forecasted State Water Project (SWP) deliveries to 75% of requested water supplies.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding

Mr. Harris reported that many of the Board's agencies have given reports about on-going BIL projects that are underway.

Inflation Reduction Act Funding

Mr. Harris reported that there is an extensive write-up in the monthly report on IRA funding. He stated that the Gila River Indian community and CVWD will be participating in buckets 1A projects. He stated that participation in bucket 1B is starting to pick up momentum. He stated that the Basin States have been pressing Reclamation to work on this issue. He noted that the Board packet included a joint three-state letter to Reclamation on this issue. He thanked Ms. Shanti Rosset from MWD for developing a draft letter that was circulated among the agencies. He stated that it was a good effort that California was able to get Arizona and Nevada's support. The three-state letter provided suggestions and recommendations to Reclamation on category 2, bucket 2, and was submitted on April 6th.

Chairman Hamby reported on various number of activities that he participated in as Chairman and Colorado River Commissioner. He stated that he met with Congressman Dr. Ruiz and Ranking Member Huffman to provide a general update on Colorado River issues. He explained that both Congressmen are part of a House committee that participates in Colorado River issues. He stated that Congressman Huffman is a Californian and is very interested in protecting California's interests on the Colorado River. He stated that Dr. Ruiz represents the

entire length of the Colorado River in California in his district and all of the non-Metropolitan member agency water uses, including Quechan Tribe, CVWD, PVID, IID, and Bard Water District.

Chairman Hamby reported that he and IID staff met with White House Infrastructure Advisor, Mr. Mitch Landrieu. He stated that he also participated in the senate Colorado River Caucus, which was on a three-day trip touring the Colorado River, starting in Colorado and ending at the Imperial Dam. He stated that poor weather conditions made it difficult to tour all of the facilities on the river and the trip was eventually cancelled. He stated that Ms. Becky Mitchell, the Colorado River commissioner for Colorado, and he were in Las Vegas for the second day of the trip and were able to greet part of the Senate delegation that did not make it on the tour. He stated that he spent time with Senator Cortez Masto of Nevada, as well as Deputy Secretary Tommy Beaudreau of Interior touring the Hoover Dam. He stated that Senator Masto expressed the Caucus's interests in supporting interstate efforts, without getting in the way. He added that it was good to hear the Senate's perspective and that it was consistent with where the general direction of the Senate has been. He added that he is unsure where the House stands on these issues and hopes it does not become political or troublesome.

Chairman Hamby reported on the submittal of the three-state letter and also gave thanks to Ms. Shanti Rosset for putting the draft together and to all the agencies, Arizona and Nevada. He stated it was small victory to be able to agree to support conservation that will be generated through those projects.

Chairman Hamby reported that he met with Mr. Mitch Landrieu, Tribal president Mr. Jordan Joaquin, Congressman Reese, and Deputy Secretary Beaudreau to discuss projects in the Imperial Valley.

Chairman Hamby reported that he also participated in a press release about the Draft SEIS release given by Commissioner Touton. He stated that representatives for Arizona, New Mexico and Mr. Tommy Beaudreau were also present. He noted that during the event he and Mr. Buschatzke from Arizona, were asked if California and Arizona were looking at litigation. He stated that both responded that they would take advantage of the Inflation Reduction Act funding, recent improved hydrology, and good conservations that Arizona and California had been having since January. He stated that California and Arizona would try to and propel forward using this forty-five day review period of the Draft SEIS to develop some level of consensus on the next steps until the end of the current guidelines, and then pivoting as quickly to actually developing the next set of guidelines, which is where everyone's time should be spent.

Chairman Hamby stated that he and Mr. Harris would be participating later in the week

in a high-level, small group Lower Basin meeting to coordinate the May 30th deadline for comments as part of the SEIS process.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further items to be brought before the Board, Chairman Hamby adjourned the meeting at 12:27 p.m.